

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to urge that you continue your leadership in tackling the climate crisis by directing your agency to finalize strong limits on carbon pollution from fossil-fuel fired power plants by early next year.

Cleaning up U.S. electricity is foundational to fighting climate change. Not only is the power sector directly responsible for 25 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, but achieving clean power is key to decarbonizing the other most polluting sectors of our economy – including transportation, buildings, and manufacturing. The technologies and practices that we use to clean up our economy will be employed by much of the rest of the world as well.

The legislation we enacted last Congress– the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS and Science Act – landmarks in the advancement of our economy, also constitute the most important body of climate legislation ever enacted. The expeditious implementation of these laws will ensure that we can provide affordable, reliable energy while also promoting the health and well-being of our communities, particularly low-income and communities of color. Modeling indicates that proper implementation of the IRA alone can achieve a reduction of the power sector’s carbon pollution by roughly 60-70 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.¹

To cut pollution as sharply as necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, however, it will not be enough simply to deploy clean energy – we must also curb our use of dirty energy. In particular, EPA has the authority and the obligation under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to protect Americans from sources that cause, or significantly contribute to, air pollution that endangers public health or welfare – like carbon pollution from power plants. Congress recently reinforced EPA’s authority by enacting the IRA, which provided funding and direction for EPA to regulate power plants’ carbon pollution using existing authorities, including those in Section 111.

¹ Nicholas Roy, Maya Domeshek, Dallas Burtraw, Karen Palmer, Kevin Rennert, Jhih-Shyang Shih, and Seth Villanueva, “Beyond Clean Energy: The Financial Incidence and Health Effects of the IRA,” Resources for the Future, October 2022 (acquired at: https://media.rff.org/documents/Two-pager_v4.pdf).
Amanda Levin and Jacqueline Ennis, “Clean Electricity Tax Credits in the Inflation Reduction Act Will Reduce Emissions, Grow Jobs, and Lower Bills,” Natural Resources Defense Council, October 12, 2022 (acquired at: <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/clean-electricity-tax-credits-inflation-reduction-act-will-reduce-emissions-grow-jobs-and>).

Any EPA proposals to address carbon pollution from new and existing power plants under CAA Sections 111(b) and (d), respectively, must require substantial carbon pollution reductions. Rules that address only existing coal and new gas facilities, but neglect existing gas plants, would leave more than half the potential pollution reductions on the table.² But if we pair strong EPA carbon standards for all fossil fuel plants with other critical clean power policies—transmission and interconnection rulemakings at FERC and ambitious state action, for instance—the United States will be on track to achieving 80 percent clean power by 2030. As your agency works to finalize these rules, we strongly encourage robust engagement with the communities that have experienced the most harm from our fossil fuel economy and are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Finally, it is critical that these rules be proposed on or before EPA’s Spring 2023 deadline and finalized by no later than March 2024.

Swiftly issuing strong carbon pollution standards for power plants is one of the most important single steps President Biden’s administration can take to tackle climate change. We are eager to work with you in doing so and look forward to supporting the EPA as it finalizes these rules within the next year.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
SEEC Co-Chair



Mike Quigley
SEEC Co-Chair




Paul Tonko
SEEC Co-Chair




Mike Levin
SEEC Clean Energy
Deployment Task Force Co-
Chair

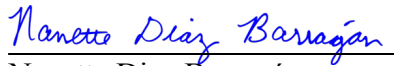
² Charles Harper, Sam Krasnow, Leah Stokes, Lissa Lynch, Sam Ricketts, Amanda Levin, Daniela Schulman, Jeff Slyfield, and Christy Walsh, “Powering Toward 100 Percent Clean Power by 2035,” Evergreen Collaborative and Natural Resources Defense Council, January 2023 (acquired at: <https://collaborative.evergreenaction.com/policy-hub/Powering-Towards-100-Clean-Power.pdf>).



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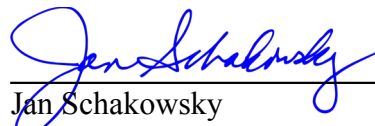
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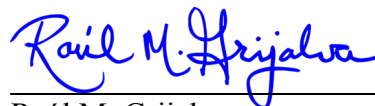
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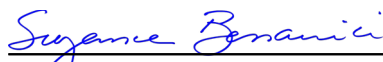
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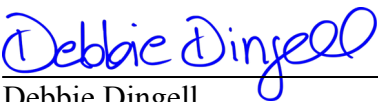
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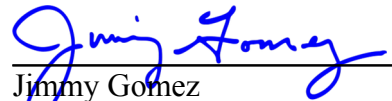
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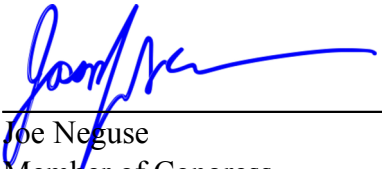
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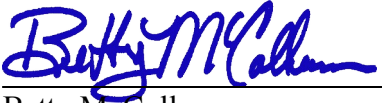
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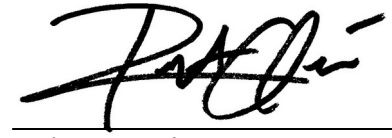
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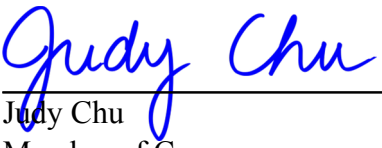
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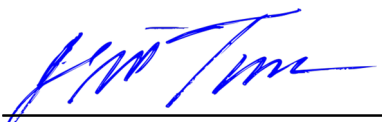
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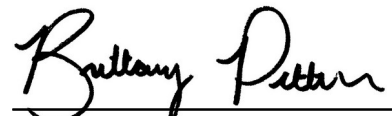
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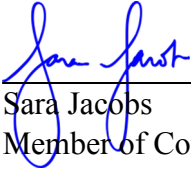
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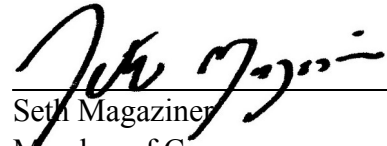
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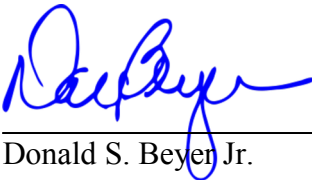
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